

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5881
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PORG, ILO, OAS, AR
SUBJECT: ILO 1978 CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 127537; (B) STATE 101278; (C) BUENOS AIRES 2926;
(D) TUNIS 3001; (E) TUNIS 3194

SUMMARY. FOR THE RECORD, THIS CABLE LISTS THE NAMES OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, WORKER AND EMPLOYER DELEGATES TO THE 64TH ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH LABOR MINISTER LIENDO IS ALSO SUMMARIZED. LIENDO RECENTLY UNDERTOOK AN INITIATIVE AMONG NON-ALIGNED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ENCOURAGE THE PROSPECTS FOR A US RETURN TO THE ILO. HE SEES SOME INTEREST IN A US RETURN, BUT HE BELIEVES THE US POSITION LEAVES NO ROOM FOR BARGAINING. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE IMPROBABILITY OF A FAVORABLE US DECISION THIS YEAR, HE HOPES THE US WILL RETURN IN A YEAR OR TWO -- BEFORE ANTI-US SENTIMENTS BECOME SOLIDIFIED WITHIN THE ILO AND THE SOVIETS AND ANTI-US THIRD-WORLDEERS TAKE COMPLETE CONTROL. HE IS OPPOSED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIPARTITE LABOR MECHANISM UNDER OAS AUSPICES UNTIL THE US RETURNS TO THE

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ILO FOLD. END SUMMARY.

1. ARMY COL. LILIO NOE RODRIGUEZ, UNDER-SECRETARY OF LABOR, WILL HEAD THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION. MINISTER OF LABOR (BRIG. GENERAL) HORACIO TOMAS LIENDO WILL PARTICIPATE AS AN ATTENDING MINISTER.

2. TIRE WORKER LEADER ALBERTO SERRANO (INDEPENDENT PERONIST) WILL HEAD THE WORKER DELEGATION WITH MINER LEADER CARLOS CABRERA ("ORTHODOX") AND GARMENT WORKER LEADER ENRIQUE MICO ("PARTIPATRIONIST") HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS ALTERNATES. THE FOLLOWING WILL PARTICIPATE AS TECHNICAL ADVISERS: PAPERWORKER LEADER FERNANDO DONAIRES ("EX-GROUP OF EIGHT"), TELEPOSTAL LEADER ANTONIO RAMON BALDASSINI (INDEPENDENT), STATE EMPLOYEE LEADER JUAN HORVATH (INDEPENDENT PERONIST), TAXI LEADER ROBERTO GARCIA (VERTICALIST PERONIST), BOAT MECHANIC LEADER JOSE CASTILLO (VERTICALIST), TOBACCO EMPLOYEE LEADER ROBERTO DIGON (ORTHODOX), EX-TEAMSTERS CHIEF RICARDO PEREZ (VERTICALIST), ROQUE DI CAPRIO FOR THE INTERVENED AUTO WORKERS UNION AND ANOTHER LEADER FROM AN INTERVENED UNION YET TO BE DESIGNATED. DONAIRES (ICF) AND BALDASSINI (PTTI) ARE CLOSE TO ICFTU. PEREZ IS ACTIVE IN ITF. CABRERA IS ASSOCIATED WITH IMF AND MICO WITH FITITVC. HORVATH AND DIGON ARE CLAT-ORIENTED.

3. ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS, THE EMPLOYER DELEGATION WILL BE COMPOSED AS FOLLOWS: CHIEF: EDUARDO OXENFORD, PRESIDENT OF THE ALPARGATAS TEXTILE FIRM AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSEJO EMPRESARIO ARGENTINO; ALTERNATE DELEGATES: JUAN FABREGAS (METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY) AND MURAT EURNEKIAN (TEXTILES).
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TECHNICAL ADVISORS INCLUDE: JUAN PABLO INVERNIZZI (TEXTILES); CARLOS CERETTI (CANDY MANUFACTURER); CARLOS ALBERTO DE LAS CARRERAS (MEAT); RICARDO BASUALDO (SAN JUAN PROVINCE); OSVALDO CORNIDE (COMMERCE); CARLOS ETCHEZARRETA (MILLING INDUSTRY); CARLOS GARCIA ZABALIA (COOP); GILBERTO MONTAGNE (CANDY); JOSE CENSABELLA (METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY).

4. IN A CONVERSATION MAY 26, LABOR MINISTER LIENDO SUMMARIZED THE RESULTS OF HIS EFFORTS AT THE RECENT NON-ALIGNED LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TUNIS AND THE ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING IN GENEVA TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE US TO THE ILO AS FOLLOWS:

A. AT TUNIS HE HELD SEPARATE TALKS WITH ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD (WHO WELCOMED LIENDO'S INITIATIVE AND PROVIDED TACTICAL SUGGESTIONS) AND THE LABOR MINISTERS OF NIGERIA, YUGOSLAVIA, TUNISIA, EGYPT, INDIA, CUBA AND OTHERS. TAKING THE LINE THAT US MEMBERSHIP WAS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN GREAT POWER EQUILIBRIUM IN THE ILO, LIENDO SAID HE FOUND THE NIGERIAN SYMPATHETIC AND

THE EGYPTIAN OUTSPOKENLY PRO-US (SO MUCH SO THAT HE WAS CRITICIZED BY OTHER ARAB AND THIRD WORLD REPRESENTATIVES). THE YUGOSLAV ACKNOWLEDGED THE DESIRABILITY OF A US RETURN (ALTHOUGH CRITICIZING THE US FOR SUPPORTING THE ILO WHILE RETAINING POLITICAL HEGEMONY OVER THE ORGANIZATION AND WANTING OUT ONLY WHEN "CONTROL OVER THE VOTES" WAS LOST) AND EVEN THE CUBAN (THE ONLY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN MINISTER PRESENT AT TUNIS) REPORTEDLY RECOGNIZED THE UTILITY OF A US RETURN (ALTHOUGH HE BITTERLY ENUMERATED A LIST OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE US). THE TUNISIAN LIENDO FOUND TO BE SOLELY INTERESTED IN CONVERTING TUNISIA INTO A SUBSTITUTE HAVEN FOR FOREIGN CAPITAL IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIEU OF LEBANON AND THEREFORE PREFERRING NOT TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN LIENDO'S EFFORT.

B. COURTESY OF US EMBASSY TUNIS, LIENDO RECEIVED COPY OF US POSITION REGARDING ILO ISSUES OUTLINED IN STATE 101278 AND HE CABLED SPANISH TRANSLATION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN BUENOS AIRES. IN GENEVA, LIENDO CONSULTED WITH AMBASSADOR VAN DEN HEUVAL. HE SAID HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US COULD NOT RETURN TO

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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R 301950Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5882
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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THE ILO THIS YEAR SO CLOSELY ON THE HEELS OF OUR WITHDRAWAL, BECAUSE THIS WOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE NOT SERIOUS-MINDED IN OUR DECISION-MAKING. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE STAYED OUT TOO LONG WE WOULD FIND ANTI-US SENTIMENTS SOLIDIFIED IN THE ILO TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT WE COULD NOT RETURN. (NEVERTHELESS, THE SOVIETS WERE NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE US ABSENCE AND HAVE BEHAVED MODERATELY THUS FAR). HOPEFULLY, THE US WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO RETURN IN A ONE OR TWO-YEAR PERIOD. REFERRING TO THE US POSITION ON THE ISSUES AS CONTAINED IN STATE 101278, HOWEVER, LIENDO SAID IT LEFT NO MARGIN FOR NEGOTIATION. WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC ISSUES, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

(1) UNIFORM APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: BLANCHARD, WHOM LIENDO ADMIRINGLY REGARDS AS AN ADROIT TACTITIONER, WANTS TO AVOID A DIVISIVE DISCUSSION OF THE CACR REPORT ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSEMBLY FLOOR. HE HOPES WITHOUT DISCUSSION.

(2) SPECIAL MISSION TO ISRAEL: GOING WELL, IN LIENDO'S VIEW.

(3) ILO STRUCTURE: PRESIDENT VIDELA IS OPPOSED TO SETTING UP A FIFTH REGION FOR THE SOVIET BLOC. ARGENTINA'S REASONING WILL BE THAT VOTING GROUPS SHOULD BE BY GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS ALONE AND NOT BY THE MIXED PRINCIPLE OF BOTH GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS.

C. LIENDO WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT ARGENTINA WOULD GET BY THE 64TH ILO CONFERENCE WITHOUT MAJOR PROBLEMS.

D. LIENDO SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION ANY MOVEMENT TOWARD THE CREATION OF A TRIPARTITE INTER-AMERICAN LABOR ORGANIZATION (OTAC) WAS PREMATURE UNTIL THE US DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE ILO. HE SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT BLANCHARD WAS OF THE SAME VIEW. BLANCHARD PLANS TO ATTEND THE UN DEVELOPMENT

CONFERENCE IN BUENOS AIRES IN SEPTEMBER AND ALSO
THE INTER-AMERICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN
LIMA IN NOVEMBER.
CASTRO

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